June 9
1927

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"Seek not after riches nor the vain things of this world; for behold, you cannot carry them with you." BOOK OF MORMON, ALMA 39: 14.

No. 23, Vol. 89 | Thursday, June 9, 1927 | Price One Penny

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO CHRIST*

PRESIDENT RUDGER CLAWSON
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

MY BRETHREN AND SISTERS: I ask your support and faith for me during the few moments that I shall stand before you.

The keynote of the conference, as it was given by President Grant yesterday, and quite strongly supported by the speakers who followed—his Counselors and others included—was the divine mission of the Messiah, and also the divine appointment of Joseph Smith to be the restorer of the Gospel.

A PEN PICTURE OF THE SAVIOUR

If I may have the power of utterance, I would like to dwell for a few moments on the mission of the Saviour. We have no authentic picture of the Saviour, as we have no absolutely authentic picture of Joseph Smith the Prophet. But we do have a pen picture of the Saviour that has behind it reasonably good authority. It was published some years ago in the *Millennial Star*, and subsequently in the *Juvenile Instructor*. I am very sure that Latter-day Saints, and those who missed seeing this description, would be very pleased to hear it now. We must take it for what it is worth; but I may say that it is a matter and a description of very peculiar interest. It is taken from a letter from Publius Lentulus to the Senate of Rome, concerning Jesus Christ:

It being the usual custom of Roman Governors to advertize the Senate

*Address delivered at the third session of the Ninety-seventh Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 4, 1927.

and people of such material things as happened in their respective provinces, in the days of the Emperor Tiberias Caesar, Publius Lentulus, President of Judea, wrote the following epistle to the Senate concerning the Saviour:

"Conscript fathers: There has appeared in these our days, a man of great virtue, named Jesus Christ, who is yet living amongst us, and of the people is accepted for a prophet of truth, but his disciples call him the Son of God. He raiseth the dead and cureth all manner of diseases—a man of stature somewhat tall and comely, with a very reverend countenance, such as the beholders may both love and fear; his hair of the colour of a filbert full ripe, and plain to his ears, but thence downward it is more orient, curling and waving about his shoulders; in the midst of his head is a wave or partition of his hair after the manner of the Nazarites; his forehead plain and very delicate; his face without spot or wrinkle, beautiful with a lovely red; his nose and mouth so formed that nothing can be reprehended; his beard thickish, in colour like the hair of his head, not very long but forked; his look innocent and mature; his eyes grey, clear and quick; in reproving he is terrible; in admonishing, courteous and fair spoken; pleasant in conversation, mixed with gravity. It cannot be remembered that any have seen him laugh, but many have seen him weep. In proportion of body most excellent; his hands and arms most delectable to behold; in speaking, very temperate, modest and wise. A man of singular beauty, surpassing the children of men."

ISAIAH'S FOREKNOWLEDGE

The coming of the Saviour was predicted by ancient prophets who looked forward to that event with joy and gladness of heart. In the ninth chapter of Isaiah we find these words:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

I certainly feel, my brethren and sisters, that these wonderful words could not then, and could not now, be applied to any man in the flesh upon the earth except the Messiah. And I may add that His birth was attended by a number of extraordinary incidents giving proof that the heavens approved of His coming and rejoiced in His advent.

THE ANNUNCIATION

This very remarkable circumstance occurred shortly prior to His natal day:

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

SIGNS AT HIS BIRTH

It was an extraordinary incident. And then again we read in the second chapter of Luke the very interesting account of His actual birth:

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

THE JEWS' MISTAKE

Now, we see that the birth of the Saviour was attended by a number of very extraordinary incidents; but it seems that His birth was hidden from His people, the Jews, generally. And I think it was due to the fact that they were unbelievers. They could not bring themselves to acknowledge that this babe who was cradled in a manger was the Son of God, the Saviour. It was true they were looking for Him, but they expected Him to come with demonstrations of power, as King of kings and Lord of lords. The great mistake that the Pharisees, the Sadducees and others made in respect to this important event was that they had their eyes upon the second coming of the Saviour, and therefore overlooked His first coming. It was a sad mistake upon their part. I think it was rather fatal to their welfare, the lack of this knowledge; and wherever there was a lack of faith, the Saviour could do but very little.

JOHN THE BAPTIST DOUBTS

Even John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, was somewhat in doubt concerning Him. We read in Matthew 11: 2-4:

Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,

And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:

The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.

THE GOSPEL GIVEN

The particular attention that I wish you to give in respect to the divine mission of the Saviour is this; that when He entered upon His ministry, which embraced but a short period of time, He organized His Church with apostles and prophets, pastors and teachers, high priests, seventies and elders, with bishops, priests, teachers and deacons. He gave to the world a complete plan of redemption, and in connection with this plan of redemption the Saviour preached the Gospel, the everlasting Gospel, which was before and which would be after and continuous. He said to His apostles on one occasion: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have

chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit". And this utterance of the Saviour signified, I think, the authority by which His apostles were called and sent forth, and also indicated, in a way, the will of God, because the Saviour said: "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." And so of course we must assume that it was the will of the Father that He should organize this Church and put into it these various authorities.

IMPRESSIONS AND PERSECUTIONS

The marvelous work accomplished by the Saviour, and His doings and sayings, made a profound impression upon the world in His day, and upon the world in our day. It was the great central theme that is described by the Bible. The prophets of old were looking down to His day, and after His crucifixion the prophets were looking back to His day. It is said in the Scriptures that Christ "went about doing good", and in reflecting upon that expression I have wondered in my own mind if a greater compliment or greater praise could be given to any man than that he went about doing good. But mark you, brethren and sisters, the fact that He did go about doing good brought down persecution upon Him. It was not for any evil thing that He did that He was persecuted, because He was without sin, a righteous man. It was because of His righteousness.

Paul, the apostle, in one of his epistles to Timothy said: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." And persecution began with Him very early and continued throughout His life. He said to His disciples upon one occasion:

> Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.
>
> Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets . . .
>
> Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Now I apprehend, my brethren and sisters, that it would be very difficult for any one of us to rejoice and "leap for joy" under the spirit of persecution, and yet we are enjoined to do that, and I think if we could do it, it would be a very proper thing, a very fine thing. Under that spirit of persecution Jesus the Lord was finally brought before Pontius Pilate, and under some very extraordinary, foolish charges He was condemned to death. The following is what purports to be the death warrant of Jesus Christ; if it be true, and it seems to be, you will find it very instructive:

THE DEATH WARRANT OF JESUS CHRIST

Sentence rendered by Pontius Pilate, Acting Governor of Lower Galilee, that Jesus of Nazareth shall suffer death on the cross.

In the year XVII of the Empire of Tiberias Caesar, and the 4th of March, the city of holy Jerusalem; Annas and Caiaphas being priests, sacrificers of the people of God. I, Pontius Pilate, Governor of the Praetory, condemn Jesus of Nazareth to die on the cross between two thieves—the great and notorious evidence of the people saying:

1. He is a seducer.
2. He is seditious.
3. He is the enemy of the law.

And yet Christ said He came not to do away with the law, nor to condemn it, but to fulfil the law, because He was the Lawgiver.

4. He calls himself falsely the Son of God.

Is not that an extraordinary charge to have been brought against the Saviour—that He called Himself the Son of God? And the very people who brought the charge and prosecuted Him to the bitter end were also sons of God.

5. He calls himself King of Israel.

Now mark the sixth charge brought against the Saviour. You will see how extraordinary it is:

6. He entered into the temple followed by a multitude, bearing palm branches in their hands.

Order the centurion, Quintus Cornelius, to lead him to the place of execution. Forbid any person whomsoever, poor or rich, to oppose the death of Jesus.

Witnesses:

Daniel Robani
(A Pharisee)
Janus Zorobabel
Capet
(A citizen)

Jesus shall go out of the city by the gate Strenuous.

Here is a note:

The above sentences are engraved on a copper plate, which was found in an antique vase of white marble, while excavating in the city of Aquilla, in the kingdom of Naples, in the year 1825. It was discovered by the Commission of Arts, attached to the French Armies. At the evacuation of Naples it was found enclosed in a box of ebony in the sacristy of Courtem. Mr. Dennon, of the Commission of Arts, caused a model to be made of the plate. At the sale of his curiosities it was bought by Lord Howard for 5,844 francs (£243-10s.).—*Courrier des Etats Unis.*

DEATH FOR A TESTIMONY

I might say in conclusion, my brethren and sisters, that the apostles of the Saviour suffered also most seriously from the spirit of persecution. All of the apostles, as I remember it, except one, gave their lives for the testimony of Jesus. John only escaped, because of the promise of the Master, who said that he should live until Christ's second coming.

I am sure a contemplation of these things will be very profitable to us. The Lord bless you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

REVELATION—YESTERDAY, TO-DAY AND FOREVER

No earthly argument, no earthly reasoning can open the minds of intelligent beings and show them heavenly things; that can be done only by the Spirit of revelation.

When the Spirit of revelation from God inspires a man, his mind is opened to behold the beauty, order, and glory of the creation of this earth and its inhabitants, the object of its creation, and the purpose of its Creator in peopling it with His children. He can then clearly understand that our existence here is for the sole purpose of exaltation and restoration to the presence of our Father and God, where we may progress endlessly in the power of godliness. After the mind has been thus illuminated, the ignorance and blindness of the great mass of mankind are more apparent. Yet there is no son or daughter of Adam and Eve who has not incorporated in his organization the priceless gem of endless life, for the endless duration and endless lives which they are approaching.

A SUPREME BEING

Without the revelations of God, we know not who we are, whence we came, nor who formed the earth on which we live, move and have our being. Did I bring the particles of matter together and form the earth? No. Did you, Mr. Philosopher? No. Did you Mr. Infidel, or you Mr. Christian, Pagan or Jew? No, not any of us. We know that we are here, but who brought us here or how we came are questions the solution of which depends upon a power superior to ours. The ideas of the inhabitants of the earth with regard to the destiny of the earth are very crude and vague. But we must all acknowledge that some individual being, power or influence superior to ourselves produced us and the earth and brought us forth and holds us in existence and causes the revolutions of the earth and of the planetary system. These are facts that neither we nor all mankind can controvert; the whole Christian and even the heathen world will acknowledge all this; but what do they know about it? Who understands the *modus operandi* by which all this was brought about and continued? Who is able to leap forth into the immensity of thought, space, contemplation and research, and search out the principles by which we are here and by which we are sustained?

(*Continued on page 365*)

Those having lamps will pass them on to others.—Plato.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1927

EDITORIAL

MORE BIBLES—GOOD!

THE FOLLOWING ITEM appeared in the British Press during the latter part of May:

It was announced at the annual meeting of the American Bible Society that the exact circulation of the Bible last year was 9,917,361 volumes, which was an increase of more than 600,000 volumes over 1925. The total circulation during the 111 years of the history of the society has been 184,028,860 volumes.

The progress is pleasing to note. Any endeavour to increase the circulation of the Bible is highly commendable, and cannot help but wield an influence for good.

As a supplement to this announcement it is timely to suggest to those who do not own Bibles, secure them, and to those who do, use them, read them. There should be a Bible in every home; but no benefit can be derived by mere possession of a copy of the Scriptures. In this day of profuse printed matter and diverting pleasures too many family Bibles are dust-covered, and obscured by a litter of current magazines and intriguing novels. A Bible in the bookcase has no more efficacy than a chest of treasure at the bottom of the sea.

There are certain precautions, however, that must be kept in mind and strictly observed by the reader of the Bible. It is a history of men and the dealings of God with them, and it records their wickedness as well as their virtues: therefore a misdeed recorded in the Bible is in no wise justifiable because of its record being in the sacred book. If it were, any evil deed could be justified, and the record would contradict and render itself null and void. Investigate the historical background and observe the spirit of the precepts.

Remember also that the Bible contains the law to be obeyed, and it does not bestow authority to administer it any more than a compilation of the statutes of Great Britain commissions a layman to act in the name of the King. That right to act must come from the chief executive or one of his duly authorized servants. Impersonation of an officer of the law is a grave offense.

The Bible prescribes the form of government of the Church and Kingdom of God, and also defines the powers of its officers. It

does not authorize any departure from this; but on the contrary, it brands such as perfidy, and the instigators as imposters.

Further, the record in the Bible is not complete, because it carries references within itself of Scriptures once existent, but which are not found within its covers, and it also tells of later Scripture which was to come forth. The eighth of the Articles of Faith of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints expresses this point: "We believe the Bible to be the word of God, as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God."

The conditions of the world have improved inestimably since the Bible first became accessible to all classes of people. Conditions will yet improve beyond measure, when mankind abides by the teachings of the Bible, and not until that time. It might be well to equip every Bible with a list of comprehensive directions, and to place at the top of the list: Not to be stored. To be read and observed.

A VOICE FROM THE DUST

RECENT archæological discoveries further substantiate the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. Excavations in Central and South America are being carried on by the "Museum of the American Indian". An interesting article, *The Pompeii of Ancient America*, written by A. Hyatt Verill, appeared in the January number of the *World's Work*. The following excerpts are worthy of note:

> An entirely new and hitherto undreamed of culture has been revealed. I am thoroughly convinced that these people, as well as many other prehistoric races, possessed iron or steel tools, and I do not know of a single argument or fact to disprove it. The fact that no iron or steel tools have been found proves nothing. Iron is the most perishable of metals, and except under most unusual conditions, all traces of small iron or steel tools would disappear completely in a few centuries.

The writer goes on to say that the architecture, monuments, temples, ornaments and artistic paintings have thrown light on the progressive civilization of the American aborigines. He approximates the date to be 4,000 B.C., which corresponds closely to the arrival of the Jaredites in western America, as recorded in the Book of Mormon. He also asks why the inhabitants disappeared and how it happens that no tradition or history has been found. Both tradition and history have been found. The Book of Mormon answers all these queries.

In 1830, when the Book of Mormon was first published, the western territory of America was an unknown wilderness, and Joseph Smith was ridiculed for stating what is now known to be truth, that a civilized people once lived upon the American Con-

tinent. Subsequent discoveries have proved him to have been a true prophet of God. There is a vast array of fact in favour of the divine authenticity of the Book of Mormon, and not a thread of evidence to the contrary. The newly found city is merely another case in point.

The greatest proof of its genuineness is contained within the record itself. Its language is inspiring, its advice is full of wisdom, its doctrine is sound, and in no instance does it contradict either the Bible or itself, but rather, each supplements and strengthens the other.

The people of the world have been warned by so-called spiritual advisers not to read the Book of Mormon. There is a vital reason for this advice. In the last chapter of the Book, Moroni 10: 3-5, the following promise is given:

Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, if it be wisdom in God that ye should read them, that ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath been unto the children of men, from the creation of Adam even down until the time that ye shall receive these things, and ponder it in your hearts.

And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things.

These are not idle words. It is a promise from God that has been literally fulfilled whenever put to the test. Tens of thousands of honest seekers after the truth have pondered these things with a prayerful heart and a sincere intent, and have been given a testimony of the truthfulness of the work, and joyfully accepted the Gospel of Jesus Christ, restored to earth in these, the last days.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8: 32).

RICHARD L. EVANS

HEBER C. KIMBALL—VALIANT!

JUNE 14TH is the anniversary of the birth of President Heber C. Kimball, first counselor to President Brigham Young. He is of particular interest to the members of the Church in Great Britain because of his instrumentality in the opening of the Mission in this country.

The Gospel was preached in England for the first time at Preston, Vauxhall Chapel, on Sunday, July 23rd, 1837, by Heber C. Kimball, first Mission President.

The field was ripe, ready to harvest, and President Kimball was

valiant in the work of the Lord. Wonderful and inspiring were his experiences, which have been recorded in his journal, and also in the journals of his companions. During his first mission here, which occupied nine months, he baptized several hundred souls and organized many branches. The entire adult population of some of the villages in which he laboured was baptized and admitted into the Church at that time.

If any of the servants of the Lord have become slack and discouraged, it will be helpful and encouraging to them to observe the following: Zeal, valour, sincerity, humility and faith, such as President Heber C. Kimball possessed, are vital factors to the successful spreading of the Gospel message.—RICHARD L. EVANS.

THE NEWCASTLE CONFERENCE

THE SPRING CONFERENCE of the Newcastle District was held in Beaconsfield Hall, Coatsworth Road, Gateshead, on Sunday, May 29th. The hall was well filled with members, friends and investigators from all parts of the District. Mission President James E. Talmage and Sister May Booth Talmage, President of the Relief Society, were in attendance from Liverpool, together with District President Orson H. Berrett and all the Traveling Elders of the District.

The theme "The Second Coming of Jesus Christ" was beautifully portrayed by the children of the Sunday Schools of the District in dialogue form, during the morning session. An anthem "The Millennium" was well rendered by a chorus from the South Shields Branch. An original poem "Signs of Christ's Coming" written by Sister Myra Fyfe, was recited by Sister Amy Andrews.

President Talmage affirmed that Jesus Christ was not a fictitious character as some suppose, but that His ministry in the flesh was a reality, and that the time is near when He shall come again to earth. The Gospel is being preached to-day to prepare men for that great event.

In the afternoon session a brief report was read by District President Orson H. Berrett covering the activities of the missionaries for the past six months. They have spent 2,149 hours in tracting, have distributed 41,742 tracts, sold and distributed 1,344 pamphlets, 18 copies of the Book of Mormon and 38 other Church books, have engaged in 1,747 gospel conversations, and have devoted 19,173 hours to missionary work. During the winter months the missionaries tracted the cities and towns in which the respective branches are located. For the past month they have been labouring in the country districts, and in that time they have tracted 26 towns and villages. The Newcastle

District has a total membership of 521, of whom 96 bear some office in the Priesthood. Organized branches are established at Blyth, Carlisle, Darlington, Gateshead, Middlesbrough, South Shields, Shildon, Sunderland, and West Hartlepool; and one unorganized branch at Skelton-in-Cleveland. The results of the labours for the past few months are very encouraging. There have been eight persons baptized thus far this year. President Berrett closed his remarks by bearing a strong testimony to the blessings of the Gospel. Elder A. Vincen McKay discoursed on man's free agency to act and choose for himself his own path. Elder James O. Hawkins declared that persecution is a test by which the Lord tries the Saints to prove their faith. The Gospel is so easy to understand that many pass it by, said Elder Amos Robinson. Elder William W. France, a member of the Sunderland Branch, bore forceful testimony to the genuineness of this latter-day work.

The Mission President said that Christ is a person and the central figure in the history of the race. Theology will never lead a man to heaven. If men will study and practise the Gospel, freed from man-made doctrine, they will find it simple, appealing and true. To walk with Jesus means to obey His teachings.

Elder Thomas Dinsdale, President of the Darlington Branch, was the first speaker in the evening session, and related faith-promoting experiences. The Prophet Joseph Smith gave to the world the great truth of the personality of God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, stated Elder Charles C. Hill. Elder Harold W. England averred that through the Book of Mormon and latter-day revelation, coupled with the Holy Bible, the way to life and salvation is clearly shown.

Sister May Booth Talmage stated that only by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the Gospel can man ever hope to obtain eternal life. She also said that the Relief Society has been established over eighty years, and told of the vast amount of good that has been accomplished in the relief of the poor and needy in the Church.

Every dispensation since the time of Adam has been opened by a personal manifestation of God to the prophet who was appointed to open that era, and in line with this procedure the Father and the Son appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith and opened the present dispensation, affirmed President Talmage. He also said that Adam, Moses, Abraham and other prophets knew God and had personal communication from Him, but the people rejected their testimonies and teachings and fell into idolatry. God is more than a physical power or form of energy; He is a Personage possessing infinite power.

Special meetings of the Mutual Improvement Association and the Relief Society were held between general sessions of the conference, in which Sister Talmage counseled and gave instructions

for the coming season, and urged all to put forth greater effort. A meeting of the local Priesthood convened with President Talmage at which he urged the brethren to greater activity in the work of the branches, so the missionary Elders can carry the gospel message to those who have not as yet had the opportunity of hearing it. Musical selections were given by members of the West Hartlepool and Gateshead Branches. The *North Mail* and *Newcastle Evening Chronicle* gave liberal space to good reports of the Conference in their Monday issues.

The Traveling Elders of the District met with President Talmage on Monday, May 30th, and received many beneficial instructions.

A. VINCEN MCKAY, District Clerk

REVELATION—YESTERDAY, TO-DAY AND FOREVER

(*Concluded from page 359*)

REVELATION—WHY NOT?

The strangest phenomenon to the inhabitants of the earth today is that God, the maker and preserver of the earth and all it contains, should speak from heaven to His creatures, the works of His hands here. What would there be strange in the mechanician, after constructing the most beautiful and ingenious piece of mechanism it is possible to conceive of, speaking to it and admiring the beauty, regularity and order of its motions? Nothing whatever. Well, to me it is not at all strange that He who framed and fashioned this beautiful world and all the myriads and varieties of organizations it contains, should come and visit them; to me this is perfectly natural, and when we remember and compare the belief of this people with that of the rest of the world we need not be surprised at being considered "a strange people."

WHENCE COMES OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH?

How do we know that prophets wrote the word of the Lord? By revelation. How do we know that Joseph Smith was called of God to establish His kingdom upon the earth? By revelation. How do we know that the leaders of this people teach the truth? By revelation. How do we know the doctrine of baptism for the remission of sins to be true? It is written in the Bible; but the Christian world deny it, because it is not manifested to them by the revelations of the Lord Jesus Christ.—PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG.

FAITH, that beautiful gift of God, should not be stored away, only to be exhibited upon some rare or special occasion, for only by constant usage is its true value realized.—LILLIAN STARBUCK.

FINGER-PRINTS

Elder Richard L. Evans

Scotland Yard and many other renowned institutions of criminology, such as are to be found in practically every great nation, have achieved remarkable success in methods of detection and identification of persons. Work of this nature is always exacting, and, in many cases, is now accomplished by new and highly developed devices and methods of observation.

Form and face, body measurements, distinguishing marks, peculiarities of action, and important points in the history of the wanted man, the real or suspected criminal, the fugitive from justice, are accurately made by photograph and written description. Perhaps he has already been in the toils of the law; if so his finger-prints may have been taken. These particulars of the individual are widely circulated, so that he may be definitely recognized should he again come under suspicion or charge. "The way of transgressors" is indeed hard if their finger-prints are on record with officers of the law.

With such unmistakable means of identification even a layman would not fail to recognize the person he was seeking if the two should meet. Let us suppose a case: If this layman were in great need of information such as only one man in the world possessed, and could therefore supply, and suppose he had a description of the one whom he sought, to the effect that this person was of manly build, healthy, sincere, right-living, always speaking with a voice as of authority and known to the honest in heart for his good works; and, further assume that there were seven hundred men, all of whom bore many resemblances but were in no wise identical, and that they lacked many of the specified attributes—the searcher would not be deceived by the divers characteristics of the seven hundred. If his man were there, among the many, he would find that man; if the man were not there the searcher would wait or look further until he found one who bore all the identifying signs.

It is regrettable that the world at large has not attained a like degree of efficiency for identifying "the Way, the Truth, and the Life", which is the Gospel of Christ. The specified characteristics, the available data are surely not less abundant than those heretofore considered as applying to an individual. The Scriptures contain definite description of the Church of Jesus Christ, its plan of organization, powers, gifts, authorities and ordinances. Holy Writ also defines the way by which mankind may know of the reestablishment of the Church in the last days, after the period of abject apostasy which was foretold.

Be not deceived by the conflicting claims of the more than seven hundred so-called Christian churches of the world. "Search

the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (John 5: 39).

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can verily be identified as the Church of old, by the finger-prints recorded in Scripture.

OBEDIENCE TO LAW, NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL

In every day affairs we comply without question with the requirements essential to the results we desire. Electricity lights our homes, propels our vehicles, drives our machinery, transmits our messages, but only on condition that we obey to the minutest detail the laws by which that force operates.

Why then should it be a thing strange in our eyes that through obedience to established and eternal law the higher or spiritual powers should be invoked to our service? The effect is equally sure. Jesus Christ spoke in terms of solemn certainty: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."—J. E. T.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfers: Elder Franklin J. Newman has been transferred from the Leeds to the Bristol District; Elder Lavon E. Payne has been transferred from the Bristol to the Birmingham District.

Words from the Workers: President Kendall D. Garff and Elder Boyd W. Madsen spent two days with the Traveling Elders of the Ulster District in Cookston. A successful cottage meeting was held. Marked progress is being made in the Ulster territory.—*From President Kendall D. Garff.*

Branch Conference: Of the Glasgow Branch, Scottish District, on May 15th. The theme "First Principles and Ordinances of the Gospel" was treated by members of the Sunday School in the morning session. In the evening assembly short discourses following the theme of the morning were delivered by President William Cooke, Brother John Hunter and Elders R. LeRoy Blamires and Melvin H. Archibald. A report meeting for the officers and teachers of the branch was held between general sessions.

Doings in the Districts: *Manchester*—A meeting for branch officers and teachers convened on May 28th. Progress was reported in all the auxiliaries. Manchester Branch was pronounced winner of the Mutual Improvement Association Banner for May. The Traveling Elders of the District also met and reported their

labours of the six weeks previous. A social for Elder E. Eric Snow followed the evening meeting.

Newcastle—A baptismal service was held at Sunderland on May 28th. Four persons were baptized by Elders Frank J. Larson and Harold W. England and confirmed by President Orson H. Berrett and Elders Earle R. Webb, Charles C. Hill and Wayne L. Shaw. After the service a District social was held; community singing and games were featured.

YOUR CALVARY

O DO NOT bow your head and humbly pray
That yours may be the thornless, primrose way—
  And do not seek your cloister, there to ask
  That you may never know the sterner task.
But meekly raise your voice in prayer for strength
To conquer and endure throughout life's length.
  For every life sublime has learned to bear
  Of travail and distress, full measured share—
Has raised its soul above all shackling pain,
By conquest glorified, has lived again!
  O do not seek the path unscarred by strife,
  But face your Calvary and conquer Life.
Be cheered, faint heart, be brave; and strength, to do
The tasks which God allots, will come to you!

IVY WILLIAMS STONE

DEATH

YOUNG—Nicholas Young, three-year old son of Sister Mary Young of the South Shields Branch, Newcastle District, passed away on May 16th. Funeral services were held at the family residence on May 19th under the direction of President Orson H. Berrett. Elders Eugene R. Budge and Charles C. Hill were the speakers; President Berrett dedicated the grave.

CONTENTS

Documents Relating to Christ... 353
Revelation—Yesterday, To-day and Forever 359
Editorials: More Bibles—Good! 360
A Voice From the Dust ... 361
Heber C. Kimball—Valiant! 362
The Newcastle Conference ... 363
Finger-prints 366
Obedience to Law, Natural and Spiritual 367
From the Mission Field 367
Poetry: Your Calvary 368

EDITED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES E. TALMAGE, 295 EDGE LANE
LIVERPOOL
FOR SALE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN